

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The Alabama Claims.

No actual progress seems to have been made towards bringing our claims upon England for the depredations of the Alabama to a conclusive hearing. The correspondence between the two Governments shows not only that no progress has been made, but that the position taken respectively by the two Governments renders it almost impossible that any should be made towards a settlement by arbitration.

When the new British Ministry came into power, one of the first acts of Lord Stanley was to reverse Earl Russell's action, and to inform our Government that he was willing thus to attempt the adjustment of these claims. Mr. Seward, in reply, said that we should expect the recognition of the Southern Confederates as belligerents by the English Government to be also submitted to arbitration.

This was peremptorily refused by the British Secretary; and in the course of the correspondence which ensued, Lord Stanley said that the precise question on which Great Britain was ready to go to arbitration was, "whether in the matters connected with the vessels, out of whose depredations the claims of American citizens have arisen, the course pursued by the British Government, and those who acted upon its authority, was such as would involve a moral responsibility on the part of the British Government to make good, either in whole or in part, the losses of American citizens."

Mr. Seward virtually authorized the acceptance of this proposition as sufficiently comprehensive, but with the understanding that the Government of the United States "would deem itself at liberty to insist before the arbitrator that the actual proceedings and relations of the British Government, its officers, agents, and subjects, towards the United States in regard to the Rebellion and the Rebels, as they occurred during that Rebellion, are among the matters which are connected with the vessels whose depredations are complained of."

This of course implied that, in presenting our claims for losses by the Alabama, we should feel at liberty to urge the recognition of the Confederates as belligerents by the British Government, as among the grounds of our claim—inasmuch as it was one of the reasons for the depredations of the Alabama. Mr. Seward sought thus to bring "recognition" into the case, if not as a matter for direct arbitration, as one of the reasons for claiming damages for other acts.

The latest letter of Lord Stanley distinctly refuses to admit this construction of his former proposal. He says that the British Government "cannot depart, directly or indirectly, from their former refusal to refer to a foreign power to determine whether the policy of recognizing the Confederate States as a belligerent power was or was not suitable to the circumstances of the time when the negotiation was made." Any arbitration that is had must proceed "on the assumption that an actual state of war existed between the Government of the United States and the Confederate States," and it would be for the arbitrator to decide whether, on that assumption, there had been any such failure of duty on the part of the British Government as would make them responsible for losses by the Alabama and other vessels of her class.

This despatch bears date November 15; what reply it has received we have yet to learn. It seems clear, however, that the arbitration cannot proceed on the basis proposed by Mr. Seward. Whether that proposed by the British Government, which does not strike us as illiberal, shall be accepted, or whether other measures shall be resorted to obtain redress, is a point which will soon demand the decision of our Government.

The Coming Political Revolution at Home.

From the N. Y. Herald.

At the time of the Connecticut State election last spring, when the Republicans put a humbug showman upon their ticket for Congress, we predicted that the people, already beginning to be dissatisfied with the policy of the radicals, would repudiate the party thus abusing its power and reject the whole of its candidates. The result verified our prediction, and the rebuke administered to the Republicans was so severe that we at once discovered in it the indication of a coming political revolution throughout the country, directed against the atrocious legislation of the radical Congress. In the elections that followed in Maine and California, and subsequently in Pennsylvania and Ohio, this revolution began to take form and substance, and, despite the desperate efforts of the Republicans to account for their sudden reverses on the plea of local issues, or the indifference of their supporters, occasioned by over confidence in their own strength, it became evident that a deep feeling was at work among the people, and it seemed as if the doom of radicalism were already sealed.

The tremendous change that followed in the votes of the States holding their elections in November, and especially the disastrous overthrow of the radical State ticket in New York, and the complete annihilation of the party in the metropolis, put the matter beyond question or dispute, and so alarmed the radical leaders as to summarily stop the impeachment agitation in Congress. It is clear, however, that the Republicans still remain resolved upon carrying out their reconstruction policy at the South, and will persist in their efforts to bring the Southern States back into the Union under the political control of the brutalized and ignorant negro population, in order that they may add to the strength of their party in the approaching Presidential election.

Under these circumstances we predict the culmination in November next of the political revolution of which we have already felt the first shock. From all the symptoms that surround us it is easy to foresee that the violence and folly of Congress, in forcing upon the country a policy entirely foreign to our institutions, and in conflict with all our ideas of freedom, justice, and generosity, will unite the people upon the Democratic and conservative nominee for the next Presidency, and that he will be elected by a large majority. The radicals may hope to save themselves by calling their aid the great name of General Grant; but if that distinguished military leader should accept a nomination upon the African supremacy platform of the present Congress, he will be defeated at the polls as easily as Chase or any other candidate would be. The principles that agitate the country at the present time are stronger than men, and no personal popularity can for an instant blind the eyes of

the people to the importance of the issue. The reconstruction policy to which the radical party promises to adhere is an atrocious outrage upon civilized society. It degrades the white race, and, by giving political power into the uncontrolled possession of hundreds of thousands of ignorant and debased negroes, breaks down all the safeguards of society, obliterates the progress of half a century, reduces ten States of the Union to a condition of African barbarism, and demoralizes the national Government. It is against this policy that the people will record their votes, and it is to save the country from these evils that they will defeat the radical Presidential candidate next fall, whoever he may be.

We do not believe that General Grant will consent to represent such a party or such a policy in the important canvass of next year. He is shrewd and sagacious, and as he begins to comprehend the coming revolution he is inclining through his earnest friends to his willingness to stand upon such a platform as the radicals are preparing for him. In this he is right. The election of 1868 would be but a repetition of that of 1852, although on a broader and grander scale. Scott, a popular and renowned soldier, was defeated by the almost solid vote of the Union—four States only casting their electoral vote for him, although his opponent was a New Hampshire nonentity, unfit for the position, without any political reputation in his own State, and unknown to the rest of the country. The overthrow of the radical negro supremacy candidate next year will be as complete as that of the Whig nominee in 1852. It is to be hoped that General Grant may be spared the pain of such a defeat, and that the conservatives and Democrats may put before the country a more desirable man than poor Pierce. In proportion as their success is assured they owe it to the nation to present none but a patriot and statesman for the suffrages of the people.

The Fall in Gold.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

The decline in the premium on gold to 133 1/2, is an advance of the value of the paper dollar of the Government and the banks to 75 cents in gold. Although gold touched 128 on the 11th of May, 1865, and averaged 130 for a week afterwards, there has been no period since July, 1862, when it has stood for a month at as low a figure as it stands now. The principal cause of its present ebb is that the Government has recently paid out about \$11,000,000 in gold, and on the first of January will disburse about \$20,000,000 more, leaving the net heard then in the hands of the Sub-Treasury but little over \$80,000,000 in gold, which is at least \$60,000,000 more than it should be, unless the Government means to use it immediately in resuming specie payments. We have already shown that our Government has twice as large a reserve of gold in proportion to its liabilities as the banks of this country or of England ever required to enable them to continue specie payments. If the Government should offer to resume to-morrow, it could hardly count and pay out more than \$2,000,000 a day in redemption of the greenbacks which would be presented. Its customs receipts would amount to half a million a day, leaving the net drain only one and a half millions per day, at which rate it could stand a run upon its gold for fifty-four days, even if the whole country were so insane as to combine against the Treasury and present the last fraction of paper it owed. But it must be apparent that resumption would in a few days bring paper up to a par with gold, and that after that time no more notes would be presented.

Meanwhile, among the other agencies which are contributing to the decline of gold, is the greater clearness of the political horizon, and the certainty—increasing with each passing day—that the Southern States are rapidly reorganizing on a plan which, if not universally acceptable, will at least be peaceful, and will restore the Union on the sound and immovable basis of equal rights for all men, whether white or black, ignorant or learned, loyal or disloyal, rich or poor. It is pretty certain, also, that the rebellion will have no political martyrs, whose blood might sow the seed for new harvests of malcontents and rebels. Mr. Davis will not be punished for fighting for slavery, nor will the country be convulsed with a displacement of the President because he opposes universal suffrage, which is his greatest and sufficient political crime. It is believed, also, that Congress will give steadiness to the tone of public discussion, which had run wild on financial questions, and that no inflation of legal-tenders, no repudiative measures, no suicidal onslaught on the national banking business, and no measures calculated to raise the rate of interest and depreciate the market value of the public securities, will be taken. These political causes, with a diminution of imports and increase of exports are combining, with the release of \$30,000,000 of gold from the Sub-Treasury, to lower the premium, which may reasonably be expected to recede still further before the middle of January.

Imported goods and those manufactured from cotton and wool were first affected by the close of the war and the decline in gold, and hence dry goods and clothing are among those living expenses which have been first reduced. Provisions and breadstuffs remain at about the same prices as in May, 1865, when gold was at its present figure. Rents and real estate will be the last to come down. The uncertainty which prevails on the point whether the Government will do anything towards the resumption of specie payments, still delays business and represses enterprise in many directions. This state of uncertainty and distrust throws out of employment a large number of operatives and workmen and women, and destroys the fruits of much labor and expense. The farmers, who are in a measure relieved from the burden of their debt, find their currency in which the debts are to be paid is liable at any moment to be enhanced in value thirty per cent. Business men dare not invest when property, relatively to money, is liable to fall on their hands by such a ruinous percentage. Labor suffers and starves on account of the paralysis imposed on capital. If specie payments were at once and promptly resumed, few very serious changes in value would take place. The amount of gold which would come into circulation, out of its warlike and hiding places, would not more than exceed the quantity of greenbacks which would be presented for redemption, and retired in consequence of resumption. Our currency, after resumption, would be as great in volume as now, or greater, and, consequently, prices would be nearly the same then in gold as they are now in paper. The business of the community would rapidly expand, every form of private and public credit would become more extended, and yet more sound, with a return to specie payments, and our business communities would enter at once on a career of great industry, activity, and prosperity. If, therefore, these circumstances, the prime need of the hour is individual and national economy, and speedy resumption of specie payments. Hold on to your greenbacks. Their rise in value from this time forth until actual resumption must be as steady and sure as their fall in value under the disastrous influences of the Chickahominy campaign, and

the other defeats and disasters of the war. He who has the greenbacks ought soon to be able to decline the gold.

Hard Times—No Work.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

Winter has set in early and sternly; the markets are glutted with fabrics which are selling at low prices; 1867 has been a hard year for the manufacturers and merchants generally, because of a steady decline in the prices of goods, which constrained them to sell for less than the cost of stock, so that there is generally no profit on the year's business, and often a serious loss. Then the cotton crop has failed in large districts, and is, on the whole, below the average, while it sells for scarcely half its price a year ago. The corn crop is also below an average; hence high prices for bread and meat, with no corresponding advantage to the farmers, who cannot buy goods so freely as they have done. So business slackens where it does not stagnate, and thousands are out of work. We have complaints of consequent suffering and rapine in Louisiana, which was desolated by floods in spring, by yellow fever in summer and autumn, and badly damaged by the army, when thousands vainly seek employment in this and we presume in nearly or quite every other city. Hence a very general and well-founded cry of hard times.

We believe a prompt return to specie payments, while it could not at once dispel the present trouble, and might even aggravate it, would enable us, at no distant day, to overcome it. For business pauses because profits have vanished. The manufacturer says, "If I buy stock and employ labor at present prices, my goods will not reimburse me for the outlay when they are ready to put on the market." In other words, he is steadily declining market discounts production. But let us go right down to hard-pan, and the manufacturer will say, "Stock and labor are so cheap that I can take the risk of employing them in the production of goods, which cannot well fall below the rates which resumption has established." Then bricks may be made, lime burned, timber bought, and houses built; while now their erection is checked by the consideration that the structure which cost \$14,000 last summer and would cost \$12,500 now, will probably be worth but \$10,000 after we get back to specie payments.

Of course, there are those who say, "Don't resume now, for we have bought lands, or houses, or stock, or goods, on credit, and must have time to realize before resumption." But, gentlemen! you must see that that argument, if good at all, will be good forever. The time can never come when there will not be thousands who have run into debt on an inflated currency, and will want resumption to wait till they can get out; or if they did, others would get in fully as deep as they are. It is a falling market, not a business; let us get on at once to the bottom, and we may confidently look for steady improvement thenceforward.

But what are the poor to do? For years, under the stimulus of war, with its eager markets and high prices, they have been crowding into the cities. We judge that there will be one-third more inhabitants in the cities of the United States on the 1st of January, 1868, than there were on the 1st of January, 1861, while our rural population has scarcely increased at all. Hence, we have less grain, less cotton, less sugar, less tobacco, to sell abroad than we formerly had; while our manufactures have scarcely exported any for years till very recently, when the low prices ruling here have caused a moderate revival of the foreign demand.

We hold it impracticable to support so large an urban population as we now have, at least while our wares and fabrics shall continue to be so largely imported. There must be a heavy diversion of our national energies from cities and traffic to rural districts and farming. We must carve more fields out of forest and prairie, drain, break up, and fertilize old ones, and largely increase the aggregate product of our soil. We should prefer, indeed, to shut out foreign fabrics, and increase the products of our furnaces and factories; and this, we trust, will, to some extent, be done; but this must be a work of time, and will be powerfully, desperately resisted by a very formidable party; so that the relief from our present trouble that seems nearest and readiest involves a heavy migration from the cities to the farms and prairies. And this cannot commence too soon.

General Hancock.

From the N. Y. World.

The prudence and patriotism with which General Hancock is administering the affairs of his department attest the wisdom of President Johnson in displacing his predecessor. General Grant's intemperate remonstrance was more creditable to the fidelity of his friendship than to the soundness of his judgment. While Sheridan was in command the department was never quiet. That meddling officer resembled the unfortunate people who never have good neighbors. He found himself under a constant necessity of doing strong acts, and the objects against which removal assumed that the department was so full of turbulent, malicious spirits that only his vigorous hand could hold them in subjection. But when he left, the rebellious spirits seemed to depart with him, as the peace of a neighborhood is restored when the unfortunate family that always has had neighbors moves away. General Sheridan's removal, which it was asserted, before it took place, would make him the next President, is much more likely to confer that honor upon his successor, if General Hancock continues to do for the consummate civil prudence he has thus far exhibited. It bids fair to place him among the small number from whom the Democratic candidate will be selected, while Sheridan's supposed claims have gone into a total eclipse.

For our part, we hope that a statesman of large civil experience may be run by both parties. We are not likely to need military abilities; or if we should, the Presidential mansion is not a fit place for the headquarters of a fighting army. Great measures of civil policy and administrative reform should stand in the foreground under the next President. There is no fitness in choosing a mere military man to discharge duties requiring great civil experience. But if the Republicans attempt to sway the canvass by the *clat* of a military name, it may be expedient to neutralize the effort by putting a popular name into the other scale. If this necessity should be forced upon us, an accidental advantage may result from the Republican reconstruction scheme by affording a field to test the civil capacity of one of our most admired and meritorious soldiers.

The standing electioneering calumny of the Republicans, that every man who disapproves of their negro policy is a Rebel at heart, recoils against its authors when levelled at so bright a reputation as General Hancock's. For loyalty, gallantry, zeal, activity, and the solid value of his services, there was no officer in the Union army who, with equal opportunities, left so shining a record. If he had ever

had a separate command, he might have acted a more prominent, but he could not easily have acted a more brilliant part. Separate commands were lavished on officers of a different school of politics. The Republican Banks had a separate command both in the Valley and in Louisiana, and he acquired everything but honor in both. The renegade Democrat, Butler, had separate commands, and made himself a butt of derision. Pope had a separate command, and his incompetency was demonstrated by the second Bull Run. Burnside had a separate command, and the result was his useless slaughter of our troops at Fredericksburg. Hooker had a separate command, and the result was his disgraceful defeat at Chancellorsville. The conservative Meade was promoted to a separate command by accident and a sudden necessity. He won the great victory of Gettysburg and was again subordinated. Democratic officers who were not servile enough to renounce or disavow their principles, had no fair chance in the army. The crushing of General McClellan by political malice was a warning which disclosed to ambitious army officers a fatal rock in the channel of promotion.

Although General Hancock never had a separate command while he was lasted, there were but few directors of armies who blazed into such distinction as this brilliant subordinate. The Army of the Potomac, in which he served, always ranked as the first of our armies, and Hancock as one of its brightest ornaments. His purity of character, his patriotic ardor, his gallantry, alacrity, vigor, abilities, modesty, and good fortune, acquired for him a reputation which was never sullied by one breath of suspicion or one word of censure. Whenever it is said that conservative politics are inconsistent with vigorous, devoted loyalty, it is a sufficient reply to point to General Hancock, the esteemed and gallant representative of hundreds of Democratic officers and hundreds of thousands of Democratic soldiers. The surviving soldiers of the Army of the Potomac feel for him a warmth of admiring regard which the colder character of General Grant never kindled; and the people share the feeling.

General Hancock has thus far proved himself as judicious in peace as he was brave and brilliant in war. Under his administration, there have been no New Orleans riots; no insubordination in civil officers to give him trouble; no dissatisfaction to his person, though he fills a most unenviable office. He resorts to no strong measures, because the considerate equity of his administration disarms opposition. The turbulent and rebellious population which he has so long had under control, and which he hardly succeeded in controlling by his constant acts of rigor and summary dismissals, is so spontaneously orderly and quiet under Hancock that, to all appearance, he could govern as effectually without an army as with. This contrast, so creditable to Hancock, illustrates the superiority of the Democratic method of dealing with the South. If General Hancock, when sent to execute an odious law, can govern with so little friction, how easily might loyalty be maintained in the South if the policy of the Government as well as the officers were conciliatory!

To illustrate the temper of General Hancock's administration, and his steadfast fealty to law, we copy the following statement from the New Orleans *Picayune*—

"On Saturday night a father and son, known respectively in this community by the names of Simon M. Frank Wallace and Edmund F. Wallace, who for several years past, have been proprietors of the sash and planing mill called the Mariposa Mills, on St. Joseph street were arrested by the police, under a warrant issued by Governor Claiborne, who had received a requisition for them from the Governor of the State of New York, they being indicted in the city of New York for the receipt of stolen goods from merchants there, about eighteen months ago, to the amount of \$100,000, by false pretences."

"Saturday night Judge Cotton, counsel for the accused, sued out before Judge Theard, a writ of habeas corpus, returnable this morning at 10 o'clock, and the sheriff, under the authority of Hancock learned last evening of the simple fact of the issuance of the writ by a court of original jurisdiction, and of the probability, under peculiar attendant circumstances, that the writ was not to be respected. Heat once went in person to the office of the Chief of Police, Mr. Charles A. Hanson, and requested that he had learned that a writ of habeas corpus had been issued, and that owing to some illegality it was probable that it would not be respected, and that he would be responsible in this matter. Those prisoners must be produced. I believe you will produce them, but I will not give the necessary presentation that they be produced. He issued an order that the writ of habeas corpus is to be observed, and it shall be. I am here to protect the liberty of the people as to life, liberty, and property must be preserved. So long as I am a power here, the law of God is respected. I know nothing, Mr. Chief of Police, about this case, do not know what these men are charged with; but it is sufficient for me to know and you to know that a writ of habeas corpus has been issued, and that writ shall be respected. I will sink the boat in the middle of the river with cannon that takes these men on board, and intercept any other boats that carry them. If the law is not observed, who and what is safe? I may be taken away, you may or any of us may be. Justice must be upheld. I hold you, therefore, Mr. Chief of Police, responsible for the delivery of these men before Judge Theard, in obedience to that writ."

"The General, on his departure, and we felt as though we had listened truly to the defender of law and dignity of government. 'We don't remember or ever having witnessed a more impressive scene.'"

The proceedings in this case of requisition may be all regular, and the grounds of the arrest Hancock need have no opinion. But it is important that citizens of his district should feel that they cannot be dragged from their homes on criminal charges, and taken to a distant State to be tried, without good reasons. All that the habeas corpus will accomplish is to secure an examination of the grounds of arrest before an upright judge. If the arrest is warranted by the facts and papers, he will restore the prisoners to custody. But the firmness with which General Hancock sustains the writ, assures every innocent man in his district that innocence will insure protection at the hands of the local courts. What General Hancock establishes is a government of law, not of arbitrary force.

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LEGAL NOTICES. IN THE ORPHAN'S COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA. Estate of JAMES HAMILTON, deceased. The Auditor appointed by the Court to audit, settle, and adjust the thirty-seven account of THOMAS CADWALADER, Executor and Trustee of the last will and testament of JAMES HAMILTON, deceased, arising from that portion of the estate belonging to said executor, and in the nature of partition in the said estate, dated January 26, 1849, recorded in the office for recording deeds, etc., in Philadelphia, in Book 6, W. C., No. 4, page 497, etc., and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the accountant, will meet the parties interested for the purpose of his appointment, on MONDAY, December 23, 1867, at 4 o'clock P. M., at his office, No. 406 WALNUT Street, in the city of Philadelphia. 12 1/2 m w m W. D. BAKER, Auditor.

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA. ROBERT WILSON vs. SARAH JANE WILSON. June Term, 1867. No. 15. In Divorce. To Sarah Jane Wilson, respondent:—You will please take notice of a rule started in the above case, returnable SATURDAY, December 23, 1867, at 10 o'clock A. M., to show cause why a divorce a vinculo matrimonii should not be decreed. JAMES W. PAUL, Attorney for Plaintiff. Philadelphia, Dec. 18, 1867. 12 1/2 m w m

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